

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001

December 17, 2018

Office of Communications

Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 63911
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
63911-65022513@requests.muckrock.com

REF: 19-HQ-F-00119

Dear Ms. Best:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters FOIA Office on November 21, 2018. Your request was assigned FOIA Case Number 19-HQ-F-00119 and was for:

Files mentioning The Unknown, a self-proclaimed ethical hacking group that came to attention in May 2012 after exploiting weaknesses in the security of NASA, CIA, White House, the European Space Agency, Harvard University, Renault, the United States Military Joint Pathology Center, the Royal Thai Navy, and several ministries of defense.

The NASA Headquarters program office(s) conducted a search for Agency records, using the above criteria. We have located 3 documents consisting of 25 pages responsive to your request. NASA is producing these records as granted in part, portions of the documents are being withheld pursuant to FOIA exemptions 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(E) and (b)(7)(F).

FOIA Exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(E), “. . . information compiled for law enforcement purposes. To the extent that production of such information would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigation or prosecution, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecution if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.” NASA is invoking exemption (b)(7)(E) because certain information in these record disclose methods that NASA uses to assess and disposition potential cybersecurity threats. Sharing this

information broadly will allow hackers or other malignant actors to shape their attacks to avoid detection.

FOIA Exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(F), “. . .protect from public disclosure records and information compiled for law enforcement purposes [if disclosure] could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.” NASA is invoking Exemption (b)(7)(F) to protect information that may identify an informant in this matter. This information is also protected under Exemption (b)(7)(E).

You have the right under 14 CFR §1206.700 to appeal this initial determination within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal must be in writing and should be addressed to:

Administrator
NASA Headquarters
Executive Secretariat
MS 9R17
Washington, DC 20546
ATTN: FOIA Appeals

The appeal should be marked “Appeal under the Freedom of Information Act” both on the envelope and the face of the letter. A copy of your initial request must be enclosed along with a copy of the adverse determination and any other correspondence with the FOIA office. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this initial decision to be in error.

Prior to filing an appeal, you may contact NASA’s Principal FOIA Officer/Chief FOIA Public Liaison, Nikki Gramian, via telephone at 202-358-0625 or via e-mail at Nikki.N.Gramian@NASA.gov to obtain further assistance or seek dispute resolution services for any aspect of your request. You may also send correspondence to Ms. Gramian at the following address:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Freedom of Information Act Unit
NASA Headquarters
Attn: Nikki Gramian
Principal Agency FOIA Officer
300 E Street, S.W., 5P32
Washington D.C. 20546
(Fax) 202- 358-4332

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA dispute resolution services it offers. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
[Telephone: \(202\) 741-5770](tel:(202)741-5770)
[Toll free: 1-877-684-6448](tel:1-877-684-6448)
[Fax: \(202\) 741-5769](tel:(202)741-5769)

Important: Please note that contacting any agency official including the undersigned or NASA's Principal FOIA Officer and/or OGIS referenced above is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90 day appeal clock.

In accordance with § 1206.804 (c), after consultation with the NASA Headquarters General Counsel Office, I am the official responsible for the denial of your request.

Fees for processing this request are less than \$50.00 and are not being charged in accordance with 14 CFR §1206.503(c). I am the official responsible for this partial denial. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at hq-foia@nasa.gov or (202) 358-2462.

Sincerely,



Josephine Sibley
Headquarters
FOIA Public Liaison Officer